

Legislative Choices

Iowa needs a state match of \$777,000 to draw down the recently federally appropriated amount budgeted for HAVA in Iowa of \$15.6 million.

If the state says **"YES"** to matching funds:

- The state will receive an additional \$15.6 million.
- Counties will receive funding to upgrade voting equipment.
- Statewide voter registration system in Iowa used by all 99 counties will be in compliance with HAVA.
- Funds are available to train election officials, poll workers, and conduct public education.
- Iowa complies with the HAVA law.

If the state says **"NO"** to matching funds

- Iowa must still meet federal HAVA mandates.
- The state loses \$15.6 million in federal funding.
- The Iowa HAVA process continues to improve Iowa's voting system, replacing machines and a voter registration system that does not meet federal HAVA requirements.
- With no state or federal assistance available, changes in equipment, software, processes and training must be funded at the county level, through property taxes.

Governor's Office

The Governor's Office has budgeted \$750,000 for match to bring an additional \$15.6 million to Iowa, for a total of \$29 million.

Report on Implementation Strategy for the Iowa General Assembly.

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For additional information or if you have questions, please contact

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Help America Vote Act HAVA

The Help America Vote Act is landmark federal legislation designed to improve election systems nationwide. It was passed by Congress and signed into law October 29, 2002. It was a non-partisan bill that passed in the U.S. Senate 99-1. Both Iowa Senators Grassley and Harkin supported it. Each state is mandated to implement the provisions of this federal legislation.

This is the status of HAVA in Iowa: progress, challenges and achievements.

2004

Help America Vote Act HAVA

The Status of HAVA in Iowa

Federal and State Policy and Funding

2002

- Congress overwhelmingly votes to enact non-partisan federal legislation requiring all states to improve voting systems and mandates specific changes

2003

- HAVA provides Iowa \$5 million for start-up and planning to comply with HAVA with no state match requirement
 - ✓ Iowa State HAVA Plan completed with State Plan Advisory Committee by federal deadline.
 - ✓ Conducted required public input sessions
- HAVA provides \$8.4 million for Iowa designated for plan implementation – for the voter registration system, voting equipment, training, and public education. 5% state match is required.
 - ✓ Matching funds in the amount of \$423,000 were secured for Iowa.
 - ✓ Supported SEAT training for election officials from 89 counties.
 - ✓ Voter registration system requirements and specifications developed.
 - ✓ Voting equipment criteria developed to include in Request for Proposals from equipment vendors.
 - ✓ Training scope developed.

- Iowa HAVA Plan Advisory Committee assembles a Budget Oversight Group
 - ✓ Iowa State Plan Advisory Committee and Budget Oversight Group meetings are held.
- Total federal HAVA funds designated for Iowa as of December 31, 2003: \$13.4 million
 - ✓ Total amount of HAVA funds spent as of December 31, 2003: \$133,622.95

2004

- Congress makes available an additional \$15.6 million designated for Iowa for plan implementation. 5% state match is required.
 - ✓ 2004 match amount needed is \$777,000.
 - ✓ The Governor has included a budget request of \$750,000.

HAVA Funding Facts

The federal government is supporting the states, based on a formula to allocate funds to each state, and provides Iowa with funds, which require state matching funds. The match is 95% federal to 5% state.

- Iowa received \$5 million early in 2003, which did not require a match and was to be used for planning.
- Iowa was appropriated an additional \$8.4 million in the fall of 2003 as a result of the state matching funds of \$423,000. (The \$8.4 million has not yet been transferred to Iowa.)
- Iowa is in line to receive an additional \$15.6 million if the state provides a match in the amount of \$777,000 during 2004.

HAVA's Requirements

As a result of HAVA, the federal government requires a plan and implementation of changes in Iowa's state and local elections. All of the HAVA mandates must be in effect, according to the HAVA law, by January 1, 2006.

Administrative

A statewide non-partisan advisory committee submitted the plan.

The HAVA Advisory Committee has formed a non-partisan Budget Oversight Group to monitor spending, chaired by Union County Supervisor Mike King.

A User Group involving auditors, political parties, research groups, and others who purchase voter files developed the criteria for the new single statewide voter registration system, as required by HAVA.

A User Group is currently developing the criteria for the RFP for counties to purchase voter equipment that has met federal and state certification standards in a way that demonstrates an "economy of scale" to save taxpayer dollars.

Voting Equipment

The federal law requires the state to replace all lever machines in use. In Iowa, there are six lever counties and one remaining paper ballot county. These will be the first to be replaced.

HAVA requires one accessible voting machine per precinct that is accessible for people with disabilities and can be used by all voters. To date, only DRE (direct recording electronic) machines have qualified. Iowa has nearly 2,000 precincts.

Training and Education

Training and education for election officials, poll workers, and the public is required in the federal HAVA legislation.

Provisional Ballots

Election officials are required to notify individuals whose names are not in the election register of the precinct where they go to vote, that they may cast a provisional ballot in any election.